

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: REINFORCED NAC MEETING - MARCH 13

REF: USNATO 1016

1. LUNS AND A GREAT MAJORITY OF THE ALLIES HAVE PLANNED AND WORKED HARD TO DEVELOP A SUCCESSFUL FIRST MEETING OF THE REINFORCED NAC NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT RESPONDS TO A PROPOSAL FROM THE SECRETARY BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT CLEARLY MEETS A GENUINE AND WIDELY-FELT NEED WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. WE THINK THAT THE ALLIES WILL COME WELL PREPARED FOR THIS FIRST SESSION AND ARE CLEARLY HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL MEET THEIR OWN PRESENT AND FUTURE EXPECTATIONS AND THOSE OF THE SECRETARY. IN ADDITION TO A USEFUL DISCUSSION OF ISSUES, WE THINK THE MEETING PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT AND NEEDED OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPOSING SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS - MANY OF WHOM HAVE DIRECT EXPOSURE ONLY TO THE MEETINGS OF THE NINE - TO THE COUNCIL ITSELF AND TO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REWARDING CONSULTATIONS IN THE LARGER NATO FORUM. TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY, WE SHOULD CONTINUE WORKING TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS FIRST MEETING AND SHOULD ANTICIPATE A FRANK AND FORTHCOMING EXHCANGE ON THE SECRET

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ISSUES. WE SHOULD NOT OVERWHELM THEM , HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH THE OTHERS

MAY LOOK TO US TO LEAD THE DEBATE.

2. AS TO THE AGENDA, DISCUSSIONS TO DATE IN THE COUNCIL HAVE REVEALED SOME JUSTIFIABLE CONCERN THAT TOO AMBITIOUS A LIST OF TOPICS MIGHT PRODUCE ONLY SUPERFICIAL TREATMENT. TO MEET THIS CONCERN, THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT A THREE-ITEM AGENDA SUCH AS THAT SUGGESTED BY LUNS IN REFTEL IS PROBABLY THE UPPER LIMIT. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT EACH ITEM BE IDENTIFIED ONLY BY A GENERAL HEADING WITHOUT A LONG LIST OF SUB-HEADINGS. THE FIRST ITEM, FOR EXAMPLE, AND AGAIN FOLLOWING LUNS' SUGGESTION, MIGHT COVER THE STATUS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. WHILE THE FOLLOWING SUB-TOPICS WOULD NOT BE LISTED IN THE AGENDA, U.S. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT SUCH ISSUES AS THE SOVIET MILITARY/STRATEGIC WEAPONS BUILD-70; ABOUT WESTERN OBJECTIVES IN CURRENT EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS AND ABOUT THE EFFECT ON THOSE NEGOTIATIONS OF SOVIET INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING THE SOLZHENITSYN EPISODE.

3. WHILE A SECOND ITEM MIGHT, AS LUNS SUGGESTS, COVER ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDING THE FORMAT OF FUTURE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, WE THINK THIS LATTER SUBJECT IS LESS AN ISSUE THAN WHAT SCOPE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANTO CONSULTATIONS IN GENERAL. THE EFFECT OF DE ROSE'S STATEMENT IN THE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 13 WAS TO LIMIT CONSULTATIONS TO SECURITY ISSUES WITHIN THE TREATY AREA. HE RULED OUT CONSULTATIONS, AS OPPOSED TO VOLUNTARY INFORMATION-PASSING, IN THE CASES OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS (E.G. SALT) AND OF MATTERS LYING GEOPGRAPHICALLY OUTSIDE THE NATO TREATY AREA (E.G. MIDDLE EAST). IN THE MISSION'S VIEW, THE ALLIANCE SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION OF CONCERTING POLICIES ON ISSUES GENERATED BY SOVIET ACTIONS AS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA.

4. WHILE TOO IMPORTANT TO RAISE UNDER LUNS' SUGGESTED ANY OTHER BUSINESS ITEM, WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS MIGHT RAISE EITHER IN THE REGULAR MEETING OR AT THE LUNCHEON NON-TEXTUAL ISSUES ARISING FROM THE

ATLANTIC DECLARATION. THIS WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN LIGHT OF PROGRESS ON THE DOCUMENT ITSELF AND THE PROJECTION OF A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN APRIL. PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT HERE WILL BE OWN
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AND OTHERS VIEWS ON THE PUBLIC/PRESENTATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE DECLARATION AND ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS TO GIVE IT LASTING MEANING AND IMPACT.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT AGREES, WE WILL WORK WITH LUNS AND OTHER DELEGATIONS TOWARD DEVELOPING AN AGENDA ALONG THE ABOVE LINES. AS FOR THE SPECIFIC SUBJECTS THAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED UNDER EACH AGENDA ITEM, WE WOULD DISCUSS THEM INFORMALLY WITH OTHERS AS INDICATIONS OF THE KINDS OF TOPICS THAT MIGHT BE USEFULLY ADDRESSED BY PERMREPS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS. THE MISSION ASSUMES THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO WANT TO PREPARE THE GROUND WITH WASHINGTON EMBASSIES IN STEERING THE ALLIANCE TOWARD A USEFUL DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES AND TOWARD REPEAT PERFORMANCES IN THE FUTURE.

6. IN KEEPING WITH THE LOW-PROFILE IMAGE WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED
ON THE REINFORCED NAC SESSIONS BY THE FRENCH, WE THINK FUTURE
SESSIONS WOULD BE MORE EASILY ACCEPTED IF WE AVOIDED ANY MAJOR PRESS
BUILD-UP ABOUT THIS FIRST SET OF THESE NEW CONSULTATIONS. THE NATO
PRESS OFFICE WILL DEVELOP A SUITABLE STATEMENT TO BE USED AT THE
CONCLUSION OF THE CONSULTATIONS AND THIS LINE WILL BE VETTED
IN THE MEETING ITSELF.
RUMSFELD

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